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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/801,575	03/17/2004	Yosuke Watanabe	Q78525	2735
23373	7590	03/28/2006	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			IQBAL, KHAWAR	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2617	

DATE MAILED: 03/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/801,575	WATANABE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Khawar Iqbal	2686	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mizuta et al (20030064758).

3. Regarding claim 1 Mizuta et al teaches a folding electric device comprising (fig. 4): an upper unit (201); a lower unit (101); and a hinge that connects said upper unit to said lower unit (300), wherein said hinge comprises (fig. 4): a perpendicular opening and closing shaft with two ends to open and close said upper unit with respect to said lower unit (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079); and a horizontal rotation shaft, fixed vertically to a surface of said lower unit, to rotate said upper unit with respect to said lower unit coming in contact with each other (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, fig. 4).

Regarding claim 2 Mizuta et al teaches further comprising a winding flexible board, wound around one of said ends of said perpendicular opening and closing shaft, for electrically connecting said upper unit to said lower unit (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, fig. 4).

Regarding claim 3 Mizuta et al teaches further comprising a winding flexible board, wound around said horizontal rotation shaft, for electrically connecting said upper unit to said lower unit (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, fig. 4).

Regarding claim 4 Mizuta et al teaches further comprising an operation input section, mounted on said hinge and electrically connected to said winding flexible board so that a user can operate said operation input section when said folding electric device is in a folded state.

Regarding claim 5 Mizuta et al teaches wherein said folding electric device is a folding mobile phone (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, fig. 4).

Regarding claim 6 Mizuta et al teaches further comprising a display arranged on said upper unit (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, fig. 4).

Regarding claim 7 Mizuta et al teaches further comprising input keys arranged on said lower unit (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, fig. 4).

Regarding claim 8 Mizuta et al teaches a folding electric device comprising (fig. 4): an upper unit; a lower unit; and a hinge that connects said upper unit to said lower unit, wherein said hinge comprises: a perpendicular opening and closing shaft to open and close said upper unit with respect to said lower unit; a horizontal rotation shaft to rotate said upper unit with respect to said lower unit (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, fig. 4); brackets fixed at opposites sides of said horizontal rotation shaft in a direction perpendicular to said horizontal rotation shaft and connected to said perpendicular opening and closing shaft in opening and closing shaft direction of said bracket (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, 0082-86, fig. 4); (d) a base, on which said horizontal rotation

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shaft is mounted, fixed to said lower unit (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, 0082-86, fig. 4); and (e) a mount provided between said brackets (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, 0082-86, fig. 4).

Regarding claim 9 Mizuta et al teaches further comprising a winding flexible board, wound around one of the ends of said perpendicular opening and closing shaft, for electrically connecting said upper unit to said lower unit (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, 0082-86, fig. 4).

Regarding claim 10 Mizuta et al teaches further comprising a bobbin, arranged between said horizontal rotation shaft and said base, for winding said winding flexible board around said horizontal rotation shaft (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, 0082-86, fig. 4).

Regarding claim 11 Mizuta et al teaches further comprising flexible board fixing member for fixing said flexible board to said hinge (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, 0082-86, fig. 4).

Regarding claim 12 Mizuta et al teaches further comprising an operation input section, mounted on said mount, for electrically connecting to said winding flexible board so that a user can operate said operation input section when said folding electric device is in a folded state (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, 0082-86, fig. 4).

Regarding claim 13 Mizuta et al teaches wherein said folding electric device is a folding mobile phone (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, 0082-86, fig. 4).

Regarding claim 14 Mizuta et al teaches further comprising a display arranged on said upper unit (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, 0082-86, fig. 4).

Regarding claim 15 Mizuta et al teaches further comprising input keys arranged on said lower unit (para. # 0024-0025, 0076-0079, 0082-86, fig. 4).

4. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Taninai (20040248628).

5. Regarding claim 1 Taninai teaches a folding electric device comprising (figs. 3,4): an upper unit; a lower unit; and a hinge that connects said upper unit to said lower unit, wherein said hinge comprises (fig. 4): a perpendicular opening and closing shaft with two ends to open and close said upper unit with respect to said lower unit (para. # 0015-0016); and a horizontal rotation shaft, fixed vertically to a surface of said lower unit, to rotate said upper unit with respect to said lower unit coming in contact with each other (para. # 0015-0016, figs. 3-39).

Regarding claim 2 Taninai teaches further comprising a winding flexible board, wound around one of said ends of said perpendicular opening and closing shaft, for electrically connecting said upper unit to said lower unit (para. # 0015-0016, figs. 3-39).

Regarding claim 3 Taninai teaches further comprising a winding flexible board, wound around said horizontal rotation shaft, for electrically connecting said upper unit to said lower unit (para. # 0015-0016).

Regarding claim 4 Taninai teaches further comprising an operation input section, mounted on said hinge and electrically connected to said winding flexible board so that a user can operate said operation input section when said folding electric device is in a folded state (para. # 0015-0016).

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Regarding claim 5 Taninai teaches wherein said folding electric device is a folding mobile phone (para. # 0015-0016).

Regarding claim 6 Taninai teaches further comprising a display arranged on said upper unit (para. # 0015-0016).

Regarding claim 7 Taninai teaches further comprising input keys arranged on said lower unit (para. # 0015-0016).

Regarding claim 8 Taninai teaches a folding electric device comprising (fig. 4): an upper unit; a lower unit (para. # 0015-0016); and a hinge that connects said upper unit to said lower unit, wherein said hinge comprises: a perpendicular opening and closing shaft to open and close said upper unit with respect to said lower unit; a horizontal rotation shaft to rotate said upper unit with respect to said lower unit (para. # 0015-0016); brackets fixed at opposites sides of said horizontal rotation shaft in a direction perpendicular to said horizontal rotation shaft and connected to said perpendicular opening and closing shaft in opening and closing shaft direction of said bracket (para. # 0015-0016); (d) a base, on which said horizontal rotation shaft is mounted, fixed to said lower unit (para. # 0015-0016); and (e) a mount provided between said brackets (para. # 0015-0016).

Regarding claim 9 Taninai teaches further comprising a winding flexible board, wound around one of the ends of said perpendicular opening and closing shaft, for electrically connecting said upper unit to said lower unit (para. # 0015-0016).

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Regarding claim 10 Taninai teaches further comprising a bobbin, arranged between said horizontal rotation shaft and said base, for winding said winding flexible board around said horizontal rotation shaft (para. # 0015-0016).

Regarding claim 11 Taninai teaches further comprising flexible board fixing member for fixing said flexible board to said hinge (para. # 0015-0016).

Regarding claim 12 Taninai teaches further comprising an operation input section, mounted on said mount, for electrically connecting to said winding flexible board so that a user can operate said operation input section when said folding electric device is in a folded state (para. # 0015-0016).

Regarding claim 13 Taninai teaches wherein said folding electric device is a folding mobile phone (para. # 0015-0016).

Regarding claim 14 Taninai teaches further comprising a display arranged on said upper unit (para. # 0015-0016).

Regarding claim 15 Taninai teaches further comprising input keys arranged on said lower unit (para. # 0015-0016).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khawar Iqbal whose telephone number is 571-272-7909.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H. Feild can be reached on (571) 272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Khawar Iqbal


ERIKA A. GARY
PRIMARY EXAMINER